

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting electronic data, the method comprising:

receiving, at a communications system host, first electronic data transmitted from a first sender and addressed to an intended recipient, the first electronic data comprising a first electronic mail message;

receiving, at the communications system host, second electronic data from a second sender and addressed to the intended recipient, the second electronic data comprising a second electronic mail message;

determining attributes of at least one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data;

endorsing the first electronic data or the second electronic data based on the determined attributes; ~~of the electronic data;~~ and

modifying one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data with endorsement information, the endorsement information comprising presentable information ~~[[so]] that presentation of the electronic data~~ visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages; and

enabling access to the first electronic data and the second electronic data concurrently with the endorsement information that visually distinguishes the first electronic data from the second electronic data in a single electronic mail inbox, the electronic mail inbox configured to generate a separate user interface that displays content of electronic data in response to manipulation of the first electronic data or the second electronic data.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein endorsing comprises identifying the first or second sender ~~of the electronic data~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the first or second sender is identified by a screen name.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the first or second sender is identified by an IP address.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein endorsing further comprises designating a level of security corresponding to the sender of the electronic data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein endorsing further comprises verifying that at least one attribute of the electronic data is an attribute of an authorized sender.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 6 wherein the attribute comprises a screen name.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 6 wherein the attribute comprises an IP address.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein endorsing further comprises designating a level of security corresponding to ~~at least one~~ the determined attribute ~~of the electronic data~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
storing content of the first and second electronic data in a first storage area of the communications system host; and

storing attributes of the first and second electronic data in a second storage area of the communications system host.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling access comprises presenting the endorsement information to the intended recipient.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ~~endorsed~~ endorsement information is presented with the determined attributes ~~of the electronic data~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ~~endorsed~~ endorsement information is presented with ~~[[the]]~~ content of the first and second electronic data.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ~~endorsed~~ endorsement information is capable of being rendered by the intended recipient as an icon indicative of endorsement.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ~~endorsed~~ endorsement information is capable of being rendered by the intended recipient as a graphical user interface indicative of endorsement.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the graphical user interface includes a border indicative of endorsement around contents of the first or second electronic data.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transmitting electronic data, the apparatus comprising a host configured to:

receive, at a communications system host, first electronic data transmitted from a first sender and addressed to an intended recipient, the first electronic data comprising a first electronic mail message;

receive, at the communications system host, second electronic data from a second sender and addressed to the intended recipient, the second electronic data comprising a second electronic mail message;

determine attributes of at least one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data;

endorse the first electronic data or the second electronic data based on the determined attributes; of the electronic data; and

modify one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data with endorsement information the endorsement information comprising presentable information that visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages; and so that presentation of the electronic data visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages

enable access to the first electronic data and the second electronic data concurrently with the endorsement information that visually distinguishes the first electronic data from the second electronic data in a single electronic mail inbox, the electronic mail inbox configured to generate a separate user interface that displays content of electronic data in response to manipulation of the first electronic data or the second electronic data.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program, tangibly embodied on a machine-readable storage device stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

receiving, at a communications system host, first electronic data transmitted from a sender and addressed to an intended recipient, the first electronic data comprising a first electronic mail message;

receiving, at a communications system host, second electronic data transmitted from a sender and addressed to an intended recipient, the second electronic data comprising an second electronic mail message;

determine attributes of at least one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data;

endorsing the first electronic data or the second electronic data based on the determined attributes;~~of the electronic data;~~ and

modifying one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data with endorsement information, the endorsement data comprising presentable information [[so]] that presentation of the electronic data visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages; and

enabling access to the first electronic data and the second electronic data concurrently with the endorsement information that visually distinguishes the first electronic data from the second electronic data in a single electronic mail inbox, the electronic mail inbox configured to generate a separate user interface that displays content of electronic data in response to manipulation of the first electronic data or the second electronic data.

21-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving electronic data transmitted from a sender to an intended recipient through a communications system, the communications system endorsing the electronic data based on attributes of the electronic data, the method comprising:

receiving, from a communications system host, first electronic data, the first electronic data comprising a first electronic mail message from a first sender and addressed to an intended recipient;

receiving, from the communications system host, second electronic data, the second electronic data comprising a second electronic mail message from a second sender and addressed to the intended recipient;

receiving, from the [[a]] communications system host, endorsement information indicating that one of the first electronic data or the second electronic data has been endorsed, the

endorsement information comprising presentable information that visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages; and

presenting the first electronic data and the second electronic data concurrently with the endorsement information that visually distinguishes the first electronic data from the second electronic data in a single electronic mail inbox, the electronic mail inbox configured to generate a separate user interface that displays content of electronic data in response to manipulation of the first electronic data or the second electronic data

~~rendering the information to a user of the intended recipient so as to inform the user of the intended recipient that the electronic data has been endorsed so that rendering the electronic data visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages.~~

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the endorsement information is rendered by the intended recipient as an icon indicative of endorsement.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the endorsement information is rendered by the intended recipient as a graphical user interface indicative of endorsement.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the graphical user interface includes a border indicative of endorsement around contents of [[the]] electronic data.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the endorsement information is rendered with contents of [[the]] electronic data.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the ~~endorsed~~ endorsement information is rendered with attributes of [[the]] electronic data.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving electronic data transmitted from a sender to an intended recipient through a communications system, the communications system endorsing the electronic data based on attributes of the electronic data, the apparatus comprising a client configured to:

receive, from a communications system host, first electronic data, the first electronic data comprising a first electronic mail message from a first sender and addressed to an intended recipient;

receive, from the communications system host, second electronic data, the second electronic data comprising a second electronic mail message from a second sender and addressed to the intended recipient;

receive, from the [[a]] communications system host, endorsement information indicating that the first electronic data or the second electronic data has been endorsed, the endorsement information comprising presentable information that visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages; and

present the first electronic data and the second electronic data concurrently with the endorsement information that visually distinguishes the first electronic data from the second electronic data in a single electronic mail inbox, the electronic mail inbox configured to generate a separate user interface that displays content of electronic data in response to manipulation of the first electronic data or the second electronic data ~~rendering the information to a user of the intended recipient so as to inform the user of the intended recipient that the electronic data has been endorsed so that rendering the electronic data visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages.~~

34. (Currently Amended) A computer program tangibly embodied on a machine-readable storage device ~~stored on a computer readable medium~~ for receiving electronic data transmitted from a sender to an intended recipient through a communications system, the

communications system endorsing the electronic data based on attributes of electronic data, the computer program comprising instructions for:

receiving, from a communications system host, first electronic data, the first electronic data comprising a first electronic mail message from a first sender and addressed to an intended recipient;

receiving, from the communications system host, second electronic data, the second electronic data comprising a second electronic mail message from a second sender and addressed to the intended recipient;

receiving, from the [[a]] communications system host, endorsement information indicating that the first electronic data or the second electronic data has been endorsed, the endorsement information comprising presentable information that visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages; and

presenting the first electronic data and the second electronic data concurrently with the endorsement information that visually distinguishes the first electronic data from the second electronic data in a single electronic mail inbox, the electronic mail inbox configured to generate a separate user interface that displays content of electronic data in response to manipulation of the first electronic data or the second electronic data

~~rendering the information to a user of the intended recipient so as to inform the user of the intended recipient that the electronic data has been endorsed so that rendering the electronic data visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages.~~

35-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the electronic data includes enabling a messaging application to visually distinguish the endorsed messages from the nonendorsed messages.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein enabling the messaging application to visually distinguish between the endorsed and nonendorsed messages includes presenting an endorsed icon for an endorsed electronic mail message in an electronic mail inbox that also includes nonendorsed electronic mail messages.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 58 wherein presenting endorsement information ~~enabling the messaging application to visually distinguish between the endorsed and nonendorsed messages~~ includes presenting an endorsed envelope, an endorsed seal, or an endorsed border for the ~~[[an]]~~ endorsed electronic mail message that is differentiated from other envelopes, seals, or borders used in nonendorsed electronic mail messages.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the electronic data includes appending endorsement information to originally-received electronic data.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the electronic data includes instructing a rendering application that the electronic data represents endorsed communications.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the electronic data with endorsement information includes configuring a messaging communication to reflect endorsement by a messaging provider.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information ~~modifying the electronic data includes displaying both the endorsed messages and the nonendorsed messages in a single display concurrently.~~

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information ~~modifying the electronic data includes displaying both the endorsed messages and the nonendorsed messages in a single display concurrently.~~

48. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 20 wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information ~~modifying the electronic data includes displaying both the endorsed messages and the nonendorsed messages in a single display concurrently.~~

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information ~~rendering the information includes displaying both the endorsed messages and the nonendorsed messages in a single display concurrently.~~

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information ~~the client is configured to displaying both the endorsed messages and the nonendorsed messages in a single display concurrently.~~

51. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 34 wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information ~~rendering the information includes displaying both the endorsed messages and the nonendorsed messages in a single display concurrently.~~

52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes, the second electronic data is not endorsed based on the determined attributes, and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information.

54. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes, the first electronic data is not endorsed based on the determined attributes, and the first electronic data is modified with endorsement information.

55. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first sender and the second sender are the same sender.

56. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first sender is the communications system host, and the first electronic data is endorsed based on the determined attributes.

57. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the attributes include information associated with electronic data other than content of the electronic data.

58. (New) A computer program tangibly embodied on a machine-readable storage device, the computer program including instructions that, when executed, display a graphical user interface for rendering information associated with electronic data transmitted from a sender to an intended recipient, the graphical user interface comprising an electronic mail inbox configured to:

concurrently present first received electronic data comprising an endorsed electronic mail message, second received electronic data comprising a nonendorsed electronic mail message, and endorsement information associated with one of the first electronic data and the second electronic data, the endorsement information comprising presentable information that visually distinguishes endorsed messages from nonendorsed messages;

receive a selection of at least one of the first electronic data or the second electronic data;
and
present content of the selected electronic data in a separate graphical user interface, the
separate graphical user interface comprising a body of an electronic mail message and a border
indicating whether the selected electronic data is endorsed.